

CAPVT XXIII

Participles

GRAMMATICA

PARTICIPLES (*participium*, -ī, n.)

Like English, Latin has a set of verbal adjectives, i.e., adjectives formed from a verb stem, called **PARTICIPLES**. Regular transitive verbs in Latin have four participles, two of them active voice (the present and future), and two passive (future and perfect). The present active and future passive participles are formed on a verb's present stem, while the perfect passive and future active are formed on the **PARTICIPIAL STEM**, found by dropping the endings from the perfect passive participle, which is itself usually a verb's fourth principal part: i.e., *laudāt-* from *laudātus*, -a, -um:

	Active	Passive
Pres.	present stem + -ns (gen. -ntis)	_____
Perf.	_____	partic. stem + -us, -a, -um
Fut.	participial stem + -ūrus, -ūra, -ūrum	pres. stem + -ndus, -nda, -ndum

This pattern can perhaps best be recalled by memorizing the participles of *agō*, in which the difference between the present stem and the participial stem is sufficient to eliminate any confusion. It is also helpful to note that the base of the present participle is marked by -nt-, the future active by -ūr-, and the future passive, often called the "gerundive," by -nd-.

agō, agere, ēgi, āctum, to drive, do, lead, act

	Active	Passive
Pres.	<i>āgēns, agēntis, doing</i>	_____
Perf.	_____	<i>āctus, -a, -um, done, having been done</i>
Fut.	<i>āctūrus, -a, -um, about to do, going to do</i>	<i>agendus, -a, -um, (about) to be done, deserving to be done</i>

English derivatives neatly illustrate the sense of three of these participles: "agent" (from *agēns*), *a person doing something*; "act" (*āctus, -a, -um*), *something done*;

“agenda” (agendus, -a, -um), *something to be done*. The participles of three of the model verbs follow:

	Act.	Pass.	Act.	Pass.	Act.	Pass.
Pres.	laúdāns	_____	aúdiēns	_____	cápiēns	_____
Perf.	_____	laudátus	_____	auditus	_____	cáptus
Fut.	laudātúrus	laudándus	auditúrus	audiéndus	captúrus	capiéndus

Note that fourth conjugation and third conjugation -iō verbs have -ie- in both the present active participle (-iēns, -ientis) and the future passive (-iendus, -a, -um). Notice too that while Latin has present active, perfect passive, and future active and passive participles, the equivalents of *praising*, *having been praised*, *about to praise*, and *(about) to be praised*, it lacks both a present passive participle (*being praised*) and a perfect active participle (*having praised*).

Declension of Participles

Three of the four participles are declined on the pattern of *magnus*, -a, -um. Only the present participle has third declension forms, following the model of *potēns* (Capvt XVI), except that the ablative singular sometimes ends in -e, sometimes (especially when used strictly as an attributive adjective) in -ī; the vowel before -ns in the nominative singular is always long, but before -nt- (according to the rule learned earlier) it is always short.

	M. & F.	N.
Nom.	ágēns	ágēns
Gen.	agéntis	agéntis
Dat.	agéntī	agéntī
Acc.	agéntem	ágēns
Abl.	agéntī, agénte	agéntī, agénte
Nom.	agéntēs	agéntia
Gen.	agéntium	agéntium
Dat.	agéntibus	agéntibus
Acc.	agéntēs	agéntia
Abl.	agéntibus	agéntibus

Participles as Verbal Adjectives

The etymology of the term “participle,” from *pars* + *capere*, *to take part/share in*, reflects the fact that participles share in the characteristics of both adjectives and verbs. As *adjectives*, participles agree in gender, number, and case with the words they modify. Sometimes also, like adjectives, they modify no expressed noun but function as nouns themselves: *amāns*, *a lover*; *sapiēns*, *a wise man, philosopher*;

venientēs, *those coming*. As *verbs*, participles have tense and voice; they may take direct objects or other constructions used with the particular verb; and they may be modified by an adverb or an adverbial phrase:

Patrem in casā videntēs, puella et puer ad eum cucurrērunt. *Seeing their father in the house, the boy and girl ran up to him.*

In Latin as in English, the time of the action indicated by a participle is not absolute but relative to that of the main verb. For example, the action of a present participle is contemporaneous with the action of the verb of its clause, no matter whether that verb is a present, past, or future tense; in the above sentence it was at some past time that the children first saw and then ran toward their father (seeing him, i.e., when they saw him, they ran up to him). The time indicated by perfect and future participles is also relative, as can be seen in the following table:

1. Present participle = action *contemporaneous* with that of the verb (same time)
2. Perfect participle = action *prior* to that of the verb (time before)
3. Future participle = action *subsequent* to that of the verb (time after)

Graeci nautae, videntēs Polyphēmum, timent, timuērunt, timēbunt.
The Greek sailors, seeing Polyphemus, are afraid, were afraid, will be afraid.

Graeci nautae, vīsi ā Polyphēmō, timent, timuērunt, timēbunt.
The Greek sailors, (having been) seen by P., are afraid, were afraid, will be afraid.

Graeci nautae, vīsūrī Polyphēmum, timent, timuērunt, timēbunt.
The Greek sailors, about to see Polyphemus, are afraid, were afraid, will be afraid.

Translating Participial Phrases as Clauses

Participial phrases are used more frequently in Latin than in English, which prefers clauses with regular verbs. In translating Latin into idiomatic English, therefore, it is often preferable to transform a participial phrase into a subordinate clause. In doing so you need to consider (1) the relationship between the action in the phrase and the action in the clause to which it is attached, so you can choose an appropriate subordinating conjunction (usually “when,” “since,” or “although”), and (2) the relativity of tenses, so you can transform the participle into the appropriate verb tense.

Thus the example given earlier, **patrem in casā videntēs, puella et puer ad eum cucurrērunt**, can be translated *seeing their father in the house, the girl and boy ran up to him* or, more idiomatically, *when they saw their father in the house, the girl and boy ran up to him*. Likewise **Graeci nautae, vīsi ā Polyphēmō, timuērunt** is better translated *when/since they had been seen* [time prior to main verb] *by*

Polyphemus, the Greek sailors were afraid than the more literal having been seen by Polyphemus, the Greek sailors were afraid. Consider these further examples:

Māter, filium amāns, auxilium dat. Since she loves her son [lit., loving her son], the mother gives him assistance.

Pater, filiam vīsūrus, casam parābat. Since he was about to see his daughter, the father was preparing the house.

Puella, in casam veniēns, gaudēbat. When she came into the house [lit., coming into the house], the girl was happy.

VOCĀBVLA

This chapter's new word-list contains, in *opprimō* from *premō*, another example of the sort of VOWEL WEAKENING common in compounds (see note on *ēripīō* in Capvt XXIII, and App., p. 484–85). The list also introduces another SEMI-DEPONENT verb, *gaudeō*, which, like *audeō*, *audēre*, *ausus sum* (Capvt VII), has only three principal parts and perfect system forms that are passive but have active meanings (you'll learn more about such verbs in Capvt XXXIV). For practice with the new grammar, write out the four participles for one or two of the verbs in this list, such as *ēducō* and *vertō*, include the English translations, then compare with the above paradigms.

arx, ārcis, f., citadel, stronghold (possibly related to *arca, box, chest*, from which we get "ark")

dux, dūcis, m., leader, guide; commander, general (duke, ducal, ducat, duchess, duchy, doge; cf. *dūcō*)

ēquus, equī, m., horse (equestrian, equine; cf. *equa, mare*)

hāsta, hāstae, f., spear (hastate)

īnsula, īnsulae, f., island (insular, insulate, isolate, peninsula)

lītus, lītōris, n., shore, coast (littoral, sublittoral)

mīles, mīlitis, m., soldier (military, militaristic, militate, militant, militia)

ōrātor, ōrātōris, m., orator, speaker (oratory, oratorio; cf. *ōs* and *ōrāre, to speak, plead*)

sacērdōs, sacerdotis, m., priest (sacerdotal; cf. *sacer, sacred*)

āliquis, āliquid (gen. *alicuius*, dat. *alicui*, etc.; cf. decl. of *quis, quid*; nom. and acc. n. pl., *āliqua*), indef. pron., *someone, somebody, something*

quīsqvis, quīdquid (*quis* repeated; cases other than nom. rare), indef. pron., *whoever, whatever*

magnānimus, magnānima, magnānimum, great-hearted, brave, magnanimous (magnanimity)

ūmquam, adv., in questions or negative clauses, ever, at any time (*numquam* = *ne* + *umquam*)

- educō, educāre, educāvī, educātum, *to bring up, educate* (education, educator, educable; do not confuse with *educere, to lead out*)
 gaudeō, gaudēre, gāvīsus sum, *to be glad, rejoice* (gaudy, gaudeamus; cf. gaudium, joy, as in *Latīna est gaudium!*)
 ostendō, ostendere, ostendī, ostentum, *to exhibit, show, display* (ostentation, ostentatious, ostensible; cf. *tendere, to stretch, extend*)
 petō, petere, petīvī, petītum, *to seek, aim at, beg, beseech* (appetite, compete, competent, impetuous, petition, petulant, repeat; cf. *perpetuus*)
 premō, premere, prēssī, prēssum, *to press; press hard, pursue*; spelled -primō, -primere in compounds such as *opprimō* below (compress, depress, express, impress, imprint, print, repress, reprimand, suppress)
 opprimō, opprimere, opprēssī, opprēssum, *to suppress, overwhelm, overpower, check* (oppress, oppression, oppressive, oppressor)
 vērto, vērtere, vērtī, vērsū, *to turn; change*; so *āvertō, turn away, avert, revertō, turn back*, etc. (adverse, advertise, averse, convert, controversy, diverse, divorce, invert, pervert, revert, subvert; cf. *versus*)

LĒCTIŌ ET TRĀSLĀTIŌ

After learning the new paradigms and vocabulary and testing your mastery with the Self-Tutorial Exercises, scan through the following readings for all the participles, identifying the tense, voice, number, gender, case, and the noun modified. Listen to the CDs, if you have them, and read aloud before translating.

EXERCITĀTIONĒS

1. Aliquid numquam ante auditum in hāc rē publicā cernō.
2. Illum orātorem in mediō senātū iterum petentem finem bellōrum ac scelerum nōn adiūvistis.
3. Certī fructūs pācis ab territō vulgō atque senātū cupiēbantur.
4. Quī vir magnanimus aliās gentēs gravī metū servitūtis liberābit?
5. Nēmō fidem neglegēns timōre umquam carebit.
6. Illa fēmina fortunāta haec cōsilia contrā eōs malōs quondam aluit et salutis commūnis causā semper labōrābat.
7. Illam gentem Latīnam oppressūrī et divitiās raptūrī, omnēs virōs magnae probitātis premere ac dēlere prōtinus coepērunt.
8. Tollētur fāma huius medicī istis versibus novīs?
9. At vīta illius modī aequī aliquid iūcundī atque fēlicis continet.
10. Quō diē ex igne et ferrō atque morte certā ēreptus es?
11. We gave many things to nations lacking hope.

12. Those ten men, (when) called, will come again into this territory with great eagerness.
13. Through the window they saw the second old man running out of his neighbor's house and away from the city.
14. He himself was overpowered by uncertain fear because he desired neither truth nor liberty.

SENTENTIAE ANTĪQVAE

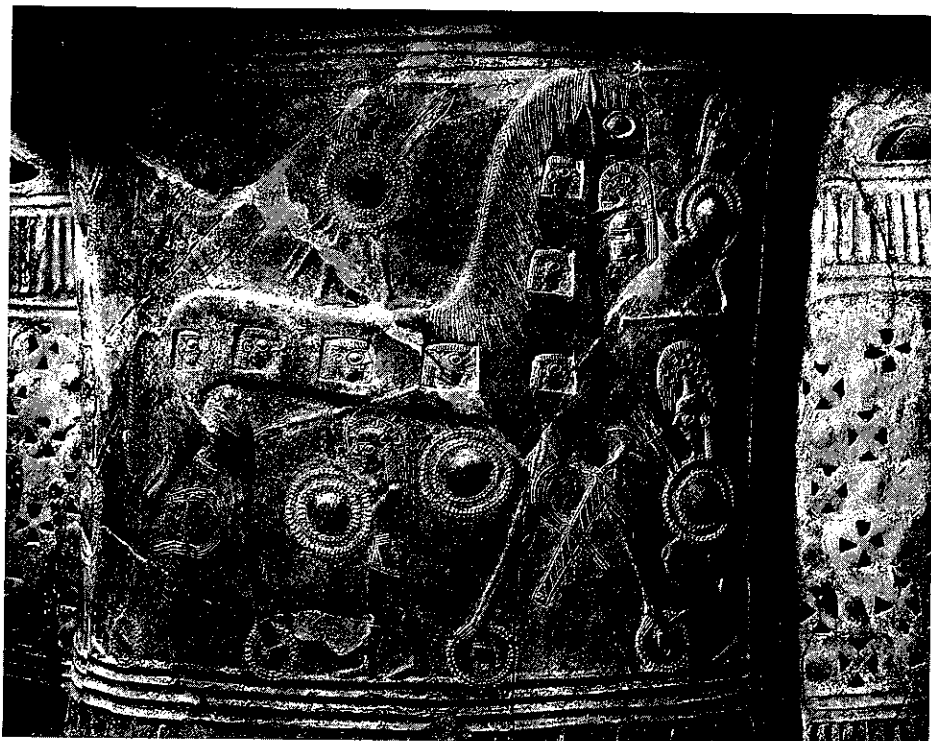
1. Vivēs meis praesidiis oppressus. (Cicero.—*praesidium*, -iī, n., *guard*; “*preside*,” “*president*.”)
2. Illi autem, tendentēs manūs dextrās, salūtem petēbant. (Liviy.—*tendō*, -ere, *to stretch, extend*; “*tend*,” “*distend*,” “*tension*.”)
3. Tantalus sitiēns flūmina ab ōre fugientia tangere dēsiderābat. (Horace.—*Tantalus*: From *Tantalus*' name and the myth of his offense against the gods comes the word “*tantalizing*.”—*sitire*, *to be thirsty*.)
4. Signa rērum futūrārum mundō ā dīs ostenduntur. (Cicero.)
5. Graecia capta asperum victōrem cēpit. (Horace.—*victor*, -tōris, m., here = *Rome*.)
6. Atticus Cicerōnī ex patriā fugientī multam pecūniam dedit. (Nepos.—*Atticus*, a friend of Cicero.)
7. Sī mihi eum ēducandum committēs, studia eius fōrmāre ab infantiā incipiam. (Quintilian.—*fōrmāre*; “*reform*,” “*transform*.”—*infantia*, -ae, f.; “*infantile*,” “*infanticide*.”)
8. Saepe stilum verte, bonum libellum scriptūrus. (Horace.—*stilum vertere*, *to invert the stilus* = *to use the eraser*; “*stiletto*,” “*style*.”)
9. Cūra ōrātōris dictūrī eōs auditūrōs dēlectat. (Quintilian.)
10. Mortī Sōcratis semper illacrimō, legēns Platōnem. (Cicero.—*Sōcratēs*, -cratis, m.—*illacrimāre*, *to weep over*; “*lachrymose*,” “*lacrimal*.”—*Platō*, -tōnis, m.)
11. Memōria vītae bene āctae multōrumque bene factōrum iūcunda est. (Cicero.)
12. Quī timēns vīvet, liber nōn erit umquam. (Horace.—*quī*, as often, = *is quī*.)
13. Nōn is est miser quī iussus aliquid facit, sed is quī invītus facit. (Seneca.—*invītus*, -a, -um, *unwilling*; the adj. here has adverbial force, as it commonly does in Latin.)
14. Verbum semel ēmisum volat irrevocābile. (Horace.—*semel*, adv., *once*.—*ē-mittere*; “*emissary*,” “*emission*.”—*volāre*, *to fly*; “*volatile*,” “*volley*.”—*irrevocābilis*, -e.)

Laocoon Speaks Out Against the Trojan Horse

Oppressī bellō longō et ā deīs āversī, ducēs Graecōrum, iam post decem annōs, magnum equum ligneum arte Mīnervae faciunt. Uterum multis militibus complent, equum in lītore relinquunt, et ultrā īnsulam proximam nāvigant. Trōiānī

nūllās cōpiās aut nāvēs vident; omnis Trōia gaudet; panduntur portae. Dē equō, autem, Trōiānī sunt incertī. Aliī eum in urbem dūcī cupiunt; aliī eum Graecās insidiās appellant. Prīmus ibi ante omnēs, dē arce currēns, Lāocoōn, sacerdos Trōiānus, haec verba dīcit: “Ō miserī cīvēs, nōn estis sānī! Quid cōgitātis? Nōnne intellegitis Graecōs et scītis insidiās eōrum? Aut inveniētis in istō equō multōs mīlītēs ācrēs, aut equus est machina bellī, facta contrā nōs, ventūra in urbem, vīsūra casās nostrās et populum. Aut aliquid latet. Equō nē crēdite, Trōiānī: quidquid id est, timeō Danaōs et dōna ferentēs!” Dixit, et potentem hastam magnīs vīribus manūs sinistrae in uterum equī iēcit; stetit illa, tremēns.

Vergil *Aen.* 2.13–52: You read a passage adapted from Vergil's Fourth *Eclogue* in Capvt XXI; here, and in Capvt XXV, you will read dramatic selections, also in prose adaptation, from Book Two of his 12-volume epic poem, the *Aeneid* (Capvt XL presents a long, unadapted passage in its original dactylic hexameter form). In this scene the Trojan prince Aeneas tells Carthage's queen Dido of the Greeks' ruse of “the Trojan horse,” a huge wooden horse they have left outside Troy's walls after seemingly abandoning their 10-year effort to sack the city and sailing home; as seen in the accompanying photograph of an

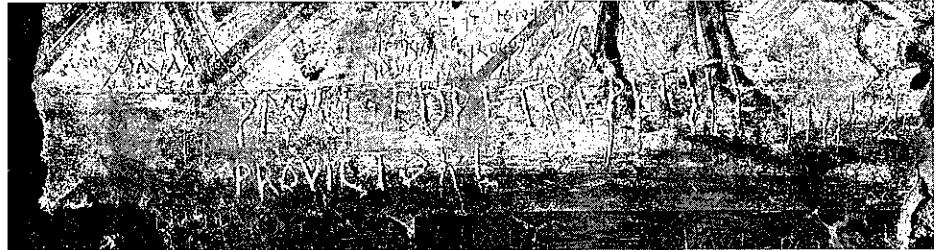


*Trojan Horse with Greek soldiers. Relief from neck of an earthenware amphora
Ca. 640 B.C. Mykonos, Greece. Archaeological Museum, Mykonos, Greece*

archaic Greek amphora (storage jug), a squadron of Greek soldiers have been concealed within the horse's belly (which Vergil purposefully calls its "womb," *uterus*). The Trojans are divided over what to do with the horse, when in the midst of their debate the priest Laocoön rushes forth to deliver a stern warning that the device must be a Greek trick, designed for their destruction — *ligneus*, -a, -um, *wooden, of wood*; "ligneous," "lignite." — *Minerva*, -ae, f., *Minerva*, goddess of war and protectress of the Greeks. — *uterus*, -i, m.; "uterine," "in utero." — *complere*, to fill up, make pregnant; "complete," "complement." — *proximus*, -a, -um, *nearby*; "proximity," "approximate." — *Trōiānus*, -a, -um, *Trojan*. — *pandō*, -ere, to open; "expand," "expansive." — *Lāocoön*, -ontis, m. — *nōnne*: the word introduces a question anticipating an affirmative answer, *Don't you . . . ?* — *machina*, -ae, f.; = Eng.; "machination," "machinery"; Aeneas, later in his narration of Troy's doomsday (lines 237–38), calls the horse a *fātālis machina . . . fēta armīs*, a *deadly machine, pregnant with weapons*. — *visūra*: here to spy on. — *latēre*, to be hidden, be concealed; "latency," "latent." — *equō*: dat. "object" of *crēdite* (a construction we have seen before, formally introduced in Capvt XXXV). — *nē*: = *nōn*. — *Danaōs*: = *Graecōs*. — *et* (with *ferentēs*): = *etiam*. — *ferentēs*: pres. partic. of the irreg. verb *ferō*, to carry, bear; "fertile," "conference." *Quidquid . . . ferentēs* is a hexameter line drawn verbatim from the poem (Book Two, verse 49); read it aloud and listen to the dactylic rhythms. — *tremō*, -ere, to tremble, shake, vibrate; "tremor," "tremulous."

QVAESTIŌNĒS: Vergil's poetry is highly cinematographic; what details even in this prose adaptation are especially visual, and how might you, as a motion picture director, advise your camera-man to film them? What striking poetic sound-effects do you hear in the verse *quidquid id est, timeō Danaōs et dōna ferentēs*?

SCRĪPTA IN PARIETIBVS



Paule ed Petre, petite prō Victōre.

This graffito is one of hundreds found in a 3rd-cent. A.D. Christian burial area in the catacombs beneath the basilica of St. Sebastian on Rome's Via Appia. Family members inscribed prayers for the deceased such as this one to the apostles Paul and Peter. — *ed*: = *et*. — *Paule . . . Petre*: what case are these nouns, and what would their nom. forms be? — *petite*: here = *pray*.